

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 5**  
**INCIDENT NO. 2004-021**  
**DATE: April 1, 2004 Time: 5:15 p.m.**

**TO:** Governor John Hoeven  
State Capitol  
Bismarck ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: **Spring Flooding** induced by heavy rains on frozen ground and ice-packed drains, streams and rivers.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No deaths or injuries have been reported.
3. DAMAGES: The National Weather Service (NWS) Area Flood Warning for Benson, Cavalier, Eddy, Grand Forks, Griggs, Nelson, Pembina, Steele, Towner and Walsh Counties remains in effect. Runoff from excessive rainfall and snowmelt continues to produce overland flooding across portions of northeastern North Dakota. While water levels are slowly receding in many areas, several roads and highways remain impassable due to high water levels in the warning area.

A River Flood Warning remains in effect for the Goose and Park Rivers where moderate flooding is occurring and is expected to continue. Minor flooding is forecast for the Sheyenne River.

The following is a NWS summary of river levels and projected crests:

Goose River: The river has crested at Hillsboro with current readings showing 14.08 feet. Flood stage is 7.0 feet and levels are forecasted to continue to decline over the next week.

Forest River: The river stage at Minto indicates a continued decline with the current river stage showing 5.92 feet, below the flood stage of six feet.

Park River: The current river stage at Grafton reads 14.12 feet, still 2.12 feet over flood stage with continued declining levels forecasted over the next week.

Pembina River: Forecasts call for the river to crest at Neche at a level of 21.0 feet. The current level is 20.07 feet with the flood stage measured at 18.0 feet. River levels are forecasted to begin a slow decline on Saturday, April 3.

Red River: The current river stage at Oslo, MN, is 35.3 feet with the forecast reflecting declining levels over the next seven days. Flood stage is 28.0 feet. At Drayton, river levels measured 36.58 feet with a crest of 38.4 feet forecasted for Monday, April 5. Flood stage is 28.0 feet. At Pembina, the current river stage is 41.8 feet with crests forecasted at 47.0 feet on Wednesday, April 7. Flood stage is 42.0 feet. East Grand Forks is reporting the river currently cresting at 38.47 feet. Flood stage is 28.0 feet.

### **Barnes County**

The Barnes County Emergency Manager (EM) reported that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is increasing releases from the Baldhill Dam. The dam's release rate was increased from 2,400 cfs to 3,000 cfs, which will bring the dam close to its 13-foot flood stage. The USACE is going to try to hold releases at 3,000 cfs, but may have to increase them. The County EM stated that the release will not affect Valley City very seriously and the USACE is issuing advisories for the release. The current level is 1,256 feet and is expected to peak at 1,269.5 feet on April 6. The current inflow at Baldhill Creek is 1,050 cfs and 3,200 cfs at Cooperstown Dam. Roads in Ellingsberg, Minnie Lake, Oriska, Wimer and Pierce Townships were overtopped but have suffered no culvert washouts, only gravel wash and shoulder damage. The Barnes County Highway Department is cleaning bridges and the Valley City Public Works/Fire is closing flap gates on culverts.

### **Benson County**

Reports of township and county roads damaged by heavy runoff continue to be received by the County Emergency Manager. Erosion of road surfaces and shoulders, as well as the undermining of roads, are creating unsafe conditions throughout the county. The Benson County Road Department and township officials have closed several roads and are flagging various unsafe or inundated roads. Recovery efforts are hindered due to load restrictions placed on state and county roads, and the continued heavy flow of water. One residential garage in the city of Minnewaukan was flooded due to overland flooding. Thawing ground is helping to ease the overland flooding.

### **Cavalier County**

The administrator for the Maple Manor (Nursing and Assisted Living Home) in Langdon requested information regarding the boil order and resident bathing. The administrator advised they are using bath packs to bathe residents and boiling water for drinking water. Langdon water plant officials stated that the water system has been treated with lime and they are working with the N.D. Department of Health to lift the boil order.

### **Grand Forks County**

Grand Forks County Emergency Management has advised residents requiring volunteer cleanup assistance to contact the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at 701-780-8213, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Grand Forks County officials are conducting preliminary damage assessments and are requesting residents to report any estimated costs of damage incurred to their homes or businesses to the EOC.

### **Nelson County**

Areas on seven county roads are closed, as well as several township roads. Roads that previously had water over them are passable. The road department is blading and smoothing out washes, as well as flagging and putting up flashing lights. The road department also reported that there is a log jam on County Road 18 under the bridge over the Sheyenne River in Hamlin Township. The road superintendent has made arrangements for a large back hoe remove the log jam. Preliminary damage assessments by cities and townships are underway.

### **Pembina County**

As of the evening of March 31, sandbagging was preventing overland flooding along the southern end of Neche. Access to the city is blocked until the sand bags have been removed. The coulee on the west side of town is again quite full. Officials are addressing concerns about the large amount of water pooled in the Hamilton and Glasston areas and effects that will occur once the water starts to move to the northeast. Sand has been staged in the city of Pembina for use by rural residents should the need for sandbagging efforts arise. Residents reporting damage to property are directed to contact the county Social Service Office at 701-265-8441. Several rural roads in the Pembina Township area are closed due to water inundation. Several individuals in the Pembina Township area will require sheltering because access to their homes has been cut off by flood waters. These individuals plan to check with family members, and as an alternate, County Social Services, for sheltering. The city of Cavalier Public Works is hauling 800 filled sandbags to Pembina. Pembina County Public Works is hauling about 35 pallets of filled sandbags from Crystal to Pembina as a precautionary measure. The Pembina County Emergency Manager has requested the USACE assess the situation in rural Pembina and to determine any further actions needed to prepare for flooding issues.

A large pool of water covering nearly a section of land was released after a culvert washed out near the Hamilton beet plant. The National Weather Service (NWS) indicates that Drayton on the Red River will reach a moderate flood stage of 38 feet by 6:00 a.m. tomorrow morning April 2, and flatline at about 39.00 feet, with a maximum crest forecast of 39.6 feet. Officials expect the State Highway 66 bridge access to Minnesota to be covered by water at 37.7 feet by this evening. Drayton has already plugged storm sewers and will plug some culverts today. Drayton officials are continuing to monitor the situation, particularly the debris in the river. The City of Pembina continues to monitor ice conditions around the Red River bridge; ice is out on the north side of the bridge and is now starting to break out on south side.

Numerous county and secondary roads remain closed due to overland flooding and erosion.

### **Walsh County**

The County Emergency Manager reported 895 bottles of drinking water were delivered today to the schools in Edinburg and Adams. This supply should last about three days. On Friday, April 2, the local health department will offer free tetanus shots. Hours of operations will be from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. On Wednesday, March 31, two Crisafuli pumps had

shafts break in the City of Grafton. Local farmers provided pumps to continue operations. There are reports that the water is starting to slowly recede throughout Walsh County. County Highway Department crews are still blocking flood damaged roads as needed and officials are also monitoring the Red River, as well as the other rivers in the county.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No changes from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No changes from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: In Walsh County, the United Methodist Services is seeking volunteers to assist with cleanup activities in the area. The organization is maintaining a listing of individuals who have offered their assistance. The organization has established the Federated Church in Grafton as a volunteer coordination site. Requests for help and volunteers will be directed there by city dispatch. The church will provide for the housing and needs of volunteers. The Emerado Presbyterian Church will handle distribution of 40 flood cleanup kits for the Emerado and Arvilla area. The Federation Church in Grafton will distribute 160 flood clean-up kits for the Grafton area.

Nechama --Jewish Response to Disaster has offered equipment, such as pressure washers, pumps, shop vacs etc., to aid in cleanup operations. Volunteers are expected to be on site by Saturday.

The American Red Cross (ARC) has established a toll-free line for eastern North Dakota residents who need assistance as a result of flooding. The number is 1-866-GET INFO (1-866-438-4636). An operator will take the information and relay it to caseworkers, who will call and arrange an appointment. In some cases, a referral might be made to another voluntary agency that can provide a specific service not covered by the ARC. Twenty-five cleanup kits were delivered to the Nelson County Courthouse today by the ARC.

The Salvation Army delivered 200 cleanup kits to Grand Forks County on March 30 for distribution. Twenty cleanup kits were sent to Emerado on March 31. A canteen with two volunteers is being prepared for duty to assist with any cleanup efforts that may occur in Walsh County on Saturday, April 3. On April 1, The Salvation Army Service Extension program provided a hearing aid for an elderly woman who had lost hers as a result of the flood.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The USACE is enroute with two pumps and hose for the city of Pembina to assist with efforts to protect the city's dike system. On April 1, commissioners for the City of Grand Forks in Grand Forks County and the City of Pembina in Pembina County issued emergency declarations.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No changes from previous reports.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No changes from previous reports.

9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director